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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 392, OCTOBER 19, NOON

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1959 OCT 19 PM 2 1 Control:  
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OCTOBER 19, 1959  
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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SENT BONN 346, DEPARTMENT 392, REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON  
113, PARIS 103, MOSCOW 125, POLAD USAREUR 32.

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PARIS FOR EMBASSY AND CINCEUR THURSTON AND FINN.

REFERENCE: OURTEL 337 TO BONN, 378 TO DEPARTMENT.

AT POLADS MEETING OCT 17 U.S. ANALYSIS FLAG INCIDENT INCLUDED  
THESE POINTS:

1) GDR INSTIGATED INCIDENT IN EFFORT GIVE SUBSTANCE COMMUNIST  
CONTENTION BERLIN IS TINDERBOX.

2) FUTURE COMMUNIST PROVOCATIONS--AND IN VIEW OF ALLIED  
COMMANDANTS' TWO DEMARCHES THIS MEANS PARTICULARLY A  
REPETITION OF FLAG-FLYING--MUST BE DEALT WITH FIRMLY AND  
DECISIVELY. OTHERWISE COMMUNISTS WILL BE ENCOURAGED STAGE  
FURTHER AND MORE DANGEROUS PROVOCATIONS, AND SOVS DETECTING  
WESTERN WEAKNESS WILL PROVE MORE INTRACTABLE WHEN NEGOTIATIONS  
OVER BERLIN RESUMED.

FRENCH AGREED WITH U.S. ANALYSIS.

BRITISH POLAD, WHO HAD THAT MORNING RETURNED FROM  
CONSULTATION WITH HIS EMBASSY BONN, GAVE BRITISH ANALYSIS  
AS FOLLOWS:

1) IN FLAG INCIDENT GDR INTENDED NO RPT NO PROVOCATION;  
GDR FLAGS FLOWN OVER S-BAHN IN WEST BERLIN WITH NO CONSCIOUS  
RELIZATION TROUBLE WOULD ENSUE.

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2) ACTION AGAINST FUTURE FLYING OF GDR FLAGS IN WEST BERLIN, INCLUDING S-BAHN, SHOULD BE CONSONANT WITH WHAT BONN DOES AGAINST GDR FLAGS IN FFDRFP. (U.S. AND FRENCH POLADS STATED THEY SAW NO RPT NO CONNECTION.)

3) IN VIEW OF ALLIED COMMANDANTS' DEMARCHES BRITISH RECOGNIZED SOME ACTION WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN IF FLAGS FLOWN AGAIN, BUT WANTED JUST THE MINIMUM NEEDED TO SAVE FACE.

TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT REACHED ON FOLLOWING SUBSTANTIVE POINTS:

1) GDR WILL IN ALL PROBABILITY FLY THEIR FLAGS OVER S-BAHN PROPERTY IN WEST BERLIN IN CONNECTION NOV 7 HOLIDAY. UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES FLAGS WOULD FLY FROM NOON NOV 6 TO 7 A.M. NOV 8.

2) POLICE ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN WITHOUT MAKING FURTHER PROTEST TO SOVS.

3) ALLIED TROOPS WILL NOT TAKE PART IN OR BE PRESENT AT POLICE ACTIONS--EXCEPT IN HIGHLY UNLIKELY CONTINGENCY POLICE UNABLE HANDLE SITUATIONS.

SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT DEVELOPED BETWEEN POLADS OVER SCOPE OF CONTEMPLATED POLICE ACTION.

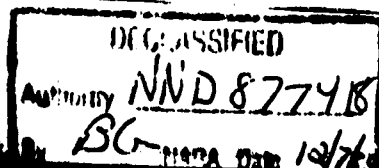
U.S. POLAD POSITION AS OUTLINED IN REFTEL.

BRITISH WILLING AUTHORIZE ONLY THE FOLLOWING:

1) REMOVE ALL FLAGS ZONE ONE (FOR DEFINITION OF ZONES SEE OURTEL 311 TO BONN, 353 TO DEPT); 2) REMOVE "SOME BUT NOT ALL" FLAGS ZONE TWO (I.E., TOKEN REMOVAL); 3) REMOVE NO RPT NO FLAGS ZONE THREE. POLICE TO BE COMMITTED IN MINIMUM FORCE. IF POLICE MEET WITH RESISTANCE THEY ARE TO WITHDRAW AND ALLIED COMMANDANTS WILL MEET TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO NEXT--PROBABLY, BRITISH POLAD SAID, SEND PROTEST TO SOVS.

FRENCH WANT POLICE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST ONLY SELECTED

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TARGETS--SAY TWENTY TO THIRTY OF THE EIGHTY-ODD S-BAHN STATIONS--  
AND AT THESE TARGETS REMOVE FLAGS IN ZONES ONE AND TWO BUT  
NOT RPT NOT ZONE THREE. FRENCH BELIEVED POLICE SHOULD BE  
COMMITTED IN SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO INSURE SUCCESS.

POLADS AGREED (AND COMMANDANT'S LATER APPROVED) FOLLOWING  
ACTIONS:

1) POLADS MEET WITH INTERIOR SENATOR LIPSCHITZ MORNING  
OCT 19 TO REQUEST THAT POLICE SUBMIT BY OCT 21 REVISED  
DETAILED PLAN OF ACTION COVERING REMOVAL ALL FLAGS FROM ALL  
ZONES WITHOUT PARTICIPATION ALLIED FORCES. (LIPSCHITZ, AT  
BRITISH INSISTENCE, TO BE INFORMED PLAN FOR STUDY PURPOSES;  
COMMANDANTS HAVE NOT DECIDED ON SCOPE OF ACTION.) PLAN TO  
BE REVIEWED BY ALLIED PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY OFFICERS FOR  
SUBMISSION TO COMMANDANTS OCT 26.

2) ON OCT 22 MAYOR BRANDT TO GIVE COMMANDANTS AND DEPUTY  
COMMANDANTS BENEFIT OF HIS VIEWS. AFTERWARDS, COMMANDANTS  
AND DEPUTIES TO DISCUSS ISSUES POLADS COULD NOT RESOLVE.  
(IMPRACTICAL MEET BEFORE OCT 22 IN ABSENCE FRENCH COMMANDANT  
AND HIS DEPUTY.)

ASSUME BRITISH FRENCH POSITIONS BASED ON FONOFF INSTRUCTIONS  
AND THEREFORE FLEXIBILITY HERE LIMITED. NEVERTHELESS  
BELIEVE ANY REPRESENTATION LONDON PARIS SHOULD AWAIT RESULTS  
OCT 22 COMMANDANTS' MEETING.

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